

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting of September 24, 2018

Present: Scott Haskins, Eliza Conde, Jared Paskavitch, Christina Beadle, Kevin Fife, Sheryl Tedford, Brittni Stewart, Mark Hayes, Jon Cilley

Also Present: Steve Partridge, Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

Beadle/Fife moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 27, 2018. **Motion passed.**

Scott Haskins reviewed a plan for Surette Park. He has sized out a possible girls softball field for the park and is having it superimposed onto the plan. Board members discussed the topic and decided to develop a comprehensive plan for Surette that could include a girls softball field, dog park, municipal bike park and additional parking. Christina Beadle suggested that the committee reach out to DES about placing a dog park close to the Winnepesaukee River. Sheryl Tedford brought up the issue of costs. Scott Haskins noted that businesses could be approached for donations and support. Jon Cilley said that additional parking would be needed if large groups were to use Surette, but that the additional uses could curtail illicit activities in the park.

Mark Hayes reviewed design factors for a municipal bike park, noting that if Northfield wanted to take this route it should be built in phases. He was asked about ongoing maintenance and responded that if the park were in the open and paved then maintenance would be minimal, if it were unpaved then maintenance would include spring cleanup and periodic repairs of the pumps as they are eroded by weather. He said that local kids could help in the design of the facility.

Glenn was asked to bring the ownership of Gibson Mill Road before the Selectboard.

Glenn reviewed materials from the Winnisquam Whinnies concerning future use of the Horse Ring. Jon Cilley noted that goat fencing could be an inexpensive material if the ring were to have a dual use as a dog park. Two members said that they believed Surette is a better location for a dog park. Sheryl Tedford reported that she has found that the area is saturated with farmer's markets; the idea of hosting another one in the ring will probably not be practical. Christina Beadle suggested that we price out a liner so it may be used for ice skating in the winter. Several members noted the maintenance issues with ice rinks and that one was already available in Tilton.

Members discussed next steps. Options include conducting a community survey, hosting a public hearing, meeting with Chief Raffaely and Andy Buteau and meeting with representatives of the kayak community. Eliza Conde suggested that the committee continue its discussion of uses of the parks and conservation areas before talking with others, noting that the committee has only discussed Surette in any detail. After discussion the committee decided to invite John, Andy and the representatives of the kayak community to the October meeting and discuss other parks in November.

Kevin Fife reported on a new conservation easement that will likely be secured in the southeast corner of town.

Christina Beadle reported that she has spoken with staff at UNH to develop trail maps for the newer conservation areas.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 22, 2018 at 6pm.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm

Minutes Approved October 22, 2018